

8/9/71 Return 20 Inmates Are Punished for Aiding the

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A nonviolent protest in support of George Mische, one of nine persons convicted for destroying draft records in Catonsville, Md., in 1968, has led to the placing of more than 20 federal prisoners in solitary confinement at Lewisburg, Pa., Federal Penitentiary.

The men were taken from Allenwood Prison Farm, a minimum security prison that is part of the Lewisburg facility, and removed to solitary after linking arms and preventing officials from moving Mische, 34, from the farm to the main prison. Mische, too, was later placed in solitary confinement.

By the end of last week, six of the men, according to Lewisburg warden Noah Alldredge, had been transferred and were in transit to federal prisons in Terminal Island, Calif., Leavenworth, Kan., Sandstone, Minn., Terre Haute, Ind., Petersburg, Va., and Milan, Mich. Most of the men are from New York and Pennsylvania, but were not identified farther.

When asked to describe what caused the men to be transferred, Alldredge said that on July 21, Mische was seen taking 15 hard-boiled eggs from the mess hall. Administrators gave him a 60-day suspended sentence for having the eggs.

Food is considered contraband, the warden explained as all extra clothing and weapons.

On July 30, said Alldredge, Mische was reported to prison authorities by a guard for "disagreement with an officer." At that point, said Alldredge, Mische "invoked the segregation" (solitary confinement) that had been suspended for his earlier sentence

ing over the contraband eggs.

Alldredge would not describe the nature of the "disagreement with an officer." But Mische, who once worked in Latin America for the U.S. government, gave an account of what led to that charge in a recent letter to Rep. William R. Anderson (D-Tenn.).

He said a convict whom "several of us suspect as being a snitch" offered him some food "and he said I should keep it for myself and not share with others."

"I suspected something and got rid of the food immediately and went out to watch the ball game," wrote Mische. He said he later learned that in his absence a short time later a guard had shook down his locker and looked through his mail.

He said he later confronted the guard and asked that he be present the next time his locker was searched. When the guard said he would search Mische's locker "any damn time I want to," Mische said he told the guard he would report him to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. At that point, the "disagreement" charge was brought by the guard, Mische said.

Mische said in his letter to Anderson that other prisoners were upset by the incident primarily because they interpreted the action against him as "a threat by the administration against anyone who said they would pursue decisions to higher authorities..."

Mische was taken to Lewisburg the morning of July 30, a day after the prisoners had linked arms and prevented his removal.

A work stoppage was threatened at Allenwood July 30 by nearly all of the more than 300 prisoners there in protest of Mische's removal. All

dredge said. He described it as the largest "disruption" that has occurred at Allenwood, a large rolling farm about 12 miles north of the main prison. Alldredge said he advised his staff that day "to get the known identified leaders, the agitating ones."

Threatened with removal to Lewisburg and solitary confinement, most of the prisoners returned to work by early afternoon, officials said. They reported that 21 Allenwood men were taken to the main prison, but prisoners contend that 274 men were transferred.

About half of those transferred are in prison for protesting the Vietnam war by refusing to be drafted or by

damaging Selective Service property.

The transferred prisoners have appeared before the penitentiary's adjustment committee and have been sentenced by administrative action of the committee, which is made up of the prison staff. As a matter of policy, the prisoners were not permitted legal counsel at the hearings.

In a telephone interview, Alldredge praised Mische, noting that "he made no effort to do anything wrong. There was no resistance on his part, and he didn't ask any of the other prisoners to do what they did. He just didn't get along with the guards at Allenwood."

But sources close to Mische say that the more gentle treat-

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ment of Mische is intended to turn the other prisoners against him.

In recent months, Mische reportedly has become an articulate spokesman for himself and other prisoners who have grievances with the prison system. Just three weeks before Mische and the others were removed from Allenwood, Rep. Anderson met with four prisoners, including Mische, at the prison to discuss grievances, including harassment by guards and Federal Parole Board secret procedures.

Mische was turned down for parole May 26 and is planning to appeal the denial. He has served about 15 months of his three-year sentence.

His decision to participate

in civil disobedience, he has said, came after his revulsion with the Alliance for Progress because, as he testified at his Catonsville trial, of its "support of military dictatorships." Earlier, Mische had served two years in the Army.

By the middle of last week, Mische had been transferred from solitary confinement to Lewisburg Farm, another minimum security prison. But most of the other men remained in solitary confinement at the end of the week.